

*Department  
of  
Human Services*

# Articles in Today's Clips

## Friday, April 7, 2006

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*Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394*



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# Divorced dad understands

*FLINT JOURNAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR*

*FLINT*

*THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION Monday, April 03, 2006*

*JOURNAL READER*

It is a shame something like the action by Matt Dubay and the National Center for Men has to be sought ["Activists seek right to say no to fatherhood," March 9, Page A1]. But as a divorced father of three kids, I feel like for some there would be no other choice. The system takes the children from the father, even if the divorce was no fault of his own. The court allows the children to be moved miles away, reduces his income to an unlivable amount and gives the father no more rights than you would have with a family pet.

Good luck, Mr. Dubay, but also get The National Center for Men to get some guts from our judges, and honest and family-values-type lawyers. We could put Friend of Court out of business. Kids would grow up with two parents equal in all ways. What a perfect world for our children.

*Glen L. Alden*

*Flint*

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# Blue ribbon campaign seeks funds to expand child-abuse education

*Friday, April 07, 2006*

*By Kym Reinstadler*

*The Grand Rapids Press*

HOLLAND -- It happens about seven times a year to adults presenting People, Problems and Protection to Ottawa County third-graders. A child confides, "That stuff you were talking about, it happened to me."

"I don't know how many other children chose to tell another trusted adult, that day or sometime in the future," said Jodi Glass, family services coordinator for the Stop Child Abuse Now Council in Ottawa County.

"I do know that children remember what we teach them for a long time, whether or not they personally have been in an unsafe situation."

That's why the SCAN Council is launching a Blue Ribbon Campaign to raise money to expand the program, a fixture in area third grades since 1971, and develop presentations for older and younger kids.

Blue Ribbon Campaigns represent the bruises some children suffer at the hands of an angry adult. Millions of people have participated in such campaigns since 1989 nationwide as a way to promote stronger families and communities.

Several area businesses are volunteering to sell blue ribbons at \$1 for the cause. Others are finding different ways to help.

Eclipse Professional Styling Salon is donating proceeds from all haircuts, manicures and chair massages it performs from 10 a.m. to noon on April 29. The salon at 575 College Ave., Holland, plans to offer children's activities.

During 2004-05, there were 3,205 calls of concern about a child's welfare to Child Protective Services.

The program reaches 3,500 third-graders, but the one paid staffer and two volunteer presenters don't have time to get to every third-grade class, Glass said.

SCAN's funding comes from the Health and Human Services Department, children's foundations and the B-93 Roof Sit each September, Glass said.

Friday, April 7, 2006

## Raising awareness

*Holland Sentinel/Dan Irving*

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH: Abby Jensen from the Children's Resource Network organizes a string of lights adorned with ribbons to be placed in a tree at Centennial Park on Thursday afternoon to commemorate April as child abuse awareness month.

Friday, April 7, 2006

## Raising awareness



*Sentinel/Dan Irving*



Children's Resource Network family support coordinator Jodi Glass, right, and Holland Parks and Cemeteries superintendant Andy Kenyon place a string of lights adorned with blue ribbons in a tree at Centennial Park on Thursday afternoon to commemorate April as child abuse awareness month

## **Friday's letters to the editor**

*Lansing State Journal/4-7-06*

### **Hines helped many**

It is with great sadness that I read today the Highfields Inc. board has made the decision to remove James Hines. I have known Hines more than five years. In that time, I have found him to be nothing less than an honorable and conscientious man.

I know for a fact that he would never allow any human being to be harmed. I find the suggestion that he would be offensive. Under his command, the annual budget for the organization doubled, allowing many more children and families to be served throughout mid-Michigan.

If it were not for his sound judgment and management skills, this organization would not have the financial wherewithal to survive the ordeal it is going through right now.

I hope that when it is time to vote again, we all remember how "political correctness" caused the character assassination of a very great man.

***Randall Roy***

***Lansing***

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### **Highfields reforming**

Probate Judge Richard Garcia and I strongly support the work by Highfields Inc.'s board to preserve this local option for troubled youth. We're committed to making sure Highfields reopens as soon as possible.

Together with other Ingham County judges, we proposed an expansion of the Start Program to house 24 youths at Highfields. County commissioners authorize almost \$2 million annually in millage revenue to Highfields, which is critical to our juvenile justice system.

Unfortunately, recent events caused judges and the state to pull youths from the program.

However, with challenges come opportunities. I'm confident Highfields will reopen better than ever. The current board is working hard to fix the problems.

Together, we will work to make Highfields one of the best facilities in the nation. We will protect the vision of its founder, former Probate Judge Robert Drake, taking the necessary steps to reopen it as soon as possible.

***R. George Economy***

***chief judge of probate***

***Ingham County***

# Her mission: Work to help other foster youths

ROCHELLE RILEY/Detroit Free Press

April 7, 2006

Jonnie Hill has a toothache. A bad one. But she can't see a dentist. She has no insurance for it, and the policy her adoptive parents had is expired.

Jonnie is, for all intents and purpose, on her own. Now 20, Jonnie spent her first 14 years being shunted from family member to family member, and her next six in juvenile detention and foster care. In the past two years, she became -- ready or not -- a grown-up.

Jonnie earns about \$1,100 a month as an intern for a foster advocacy organization. She has turned making ends meet into an art form. But, after taxes, \$600 rent, \$50 life and renter's insurance, \$160 phone bill, \$80 cable bill, \$280 for fill-ups and oil changes for her '87 Cadillac DeVille, and buying clothes, shoes and other necessities for Tania, her peppy 4-year-old daughter, Jonnie does not have \$800 for a root canal. Her struggle is the same as that facing many Americans, many Michiganders. But Jonnie has an added burden. She is among nearly 500 youths who aged out of the state foster care system last year. Each is eligible for up to \$1,000 in transition funds, if they apply. But many foster youths don't know about the so-called Youth in Transition Fund, a onetime payment to be used for rent, security deposits, furniture or clothes.

Jonnie knew, but she also knows that a \$1,000 stipend doesn't cover much. It won't buy a car or guarantee a job. It can pull ends a little closer together but can't make them meet.

## Great things ahead

Jonnie is nearing the end of her eight-week internship at the Wayne County Foster Youth Demonstration Project, also known as CIAO, Creating Independence and Outcomes, which helps foster youths get driver's licenses, birth certificates, counseling and such support services as car repairs, interview clothes, tools, eyeglasses and college books.

Jonnie's supervisor is working to turn her internship into a full-time job. Then, Jonnie could give her daughter a sense of security and help Tania avoid the misery that Jonnie can still see clearly in her rearview mirror. It's where she finds her mission.

"I've been praying really, really hard," she said. "I was going to pursue medical billing, but I asked God, 'Would you tell me what my career will be?' My career should be helping foster kids."

Three years ago, the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth found that young adults making the transition out of foster care were worse off than any others in the youth population. The task force gave Michigan and four other states a chance to help by supporting programs to help these youths become self-sufficient with GEDs, job training, life skills and support services. The Wayne County CIAO project has 135 participants, most of whom know Jonnie.

But neither the federal government nor the state

has dealt with a larger issue: The Michigan Department of Human Services, which oversees foster care, has about 700 child protective service caseworkers and 604 foster care workers. To drop caseloads to 15-1, the nationally recommended ratio, Michigan needs another 130 CPS workers and 190 more in foster care.

At CIAO, Jonnie keeps track of area youth and their files, and she started a youth advisory board to bring foster youth to the agency to discuss their own issues. She also spreads the word about new funding sources and ways to get needs met.

"She's shown so much initiative," said Paul Duford, her supervisor. "I always tell Jonnie, I'll be old and gray and I'll see her on TV doing something great."

Jonnie sees it, too. But she hasn't always.

## Family troubles

She was born in Boston in August 1985. Her mother, described by family as a drug addict and schizophrenic, couldn't care for her, so she lived with a 65-year-old great-aunt until her mother's sister adopted her and moved to Detroit.

Jonnie attended Parkman Elementary, Evergreen Lutheran and Ruddiman Middle schools until she was 12.

"That summer, I found out I was adopted," she said. "That changed everything."

Jonnie felt like she didn't belong in her aunt's family. She began making poor choices and getting into such severe trouble that she wound up being moved back to Boston, back to Detroit, and then living with friends until she was 15.

That was the age when Jonnie discovered sex and got pregnant. When her relatives found out, they gave Jonnie a choice: Have an abortion or leave. She moved in with relatives of her baby's father.

After Tania's birth, Jonnie moved around again until a fight with another girl landed her in juvenile detention and then in the foster care system. Three years and three placements later, she had saved enough to move into her own apartment with her daughter. Now, she's struggling to find a place in a better school district.

In August, when Jonnie turns 21, she will lose her last \$400 in Youth in Transition Funds.

Sometimes she just wishes she had some help. But then she reminds herself that she is all she has.

"I saw my real mom in November. She came to Detroit," Jonnie said. "She's sick, and she wanted to meet my daughter. ... She wanted me to buy her a pack of cigarettes. I said OK."

That was the first time Jonnie had seen her in five years.

### **Good reasons for pride**

Jonnie's adoptive mother, Irene Hill, who now lives in Coral Springs, Fla., said Jonnie has earned her respect.

"Jonnie has quite a personality. People really like her. She's a talker, and she has a good heart," said Hill, a 54-year-old accounting officer for an insurance broker. "I never thought she would go that far. ... She's so happy with her life and proud of herself, and I'm so proud of her."

Jonnie Hill wants to help other youth who are angry, struggling, confused and overwhelmed as they get pushed into adulthood without a net. She wants to do it because she once was one of them: misguided, disrespectful, a defiant rule-breaker, eager for love in the wrong places.

To that end, she serves on the advisory board for the agency where she works. She is head of committees for Wayne County's largest Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiatives foster youth board. She chairs the mental health committee of the state's new Task Force on Foster Youth and Aging Out. She does all of that and works five days a week and takes care of her daughter and keeps up her '87 DeVille. She is on a path toward one day owning her own company and changing the world.

But first, she has to find a new apartment.

Contact **ROCHELLE RILEY** at [rriley99@freepress.com](mailto:rriley99@freepress.com) or 313-223-4473.

*Ron Gettelfinger  
Detroit News Editorial  
April 7, 2006*

## Medicare drug benefit cries out for cure

Let single administrator bargain lower prices with drug companies

If you think the price of health care is too high already, consider this: During the next seven years, taxpayers and consumers could be overcharged by as much as \$785 billion.

That's how much money we stand to waste on President Bush's Medicare prescription drug plan, according to Congressional Budget Office projections analyzed by the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Why so much waste? Because the prescription drug program specifically prevents Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices -- even though Medicare is the largest purchaser of medical services in the country, with sufficient negotiating clout to achieve major discounts.

**Bulk purchases save money**

The savings that can be gained by bulk purchases are not theoretical, but a proven fact, as shown by the experience of the Veterans Administration. Unlike Medicare, the VA is allowed to use its purchasing power to win bulk discounts from drug makers.

According to a survey by Families USA, 19 of the most 20 common drugs prescribed are cheaper at the VA than under Medicare Part D. Medicare recipients pay, on average, almost 50 percent more than VA patients.

The high cost of drugs under Medicare Part D isn't just a government problem, because the government pays only part of the cost of the program. The crazy-quilt benefit design requires seniors first to pay an annual premium, then a steep deductible - and then all the costs for annual prescriptions that are more than \$2,250 but less than \$5,100.

Confused? So is everyone else who has tried to use this program. The high price of prescriptions under Medicare Part D, unfortunately, does not ensure a high quality of service. The program requires seniors to choose among 30 different insurance programs, with no clear information about what drugs are covered.

In fact, seniors have to enroll in the plan for at least one year at a time, but during that year, insurance companies are allowed to make changes to the list of drugs they cover. That means you could sign up for a plan in January - and be told in February that your medication is no longer covered.

**Plan doesn't serve seniors**

Does this sound like a drug plan written with the needs of senior citizens in mind? Of course not -- because the Medicare Modernization Act, which created the program, was written by drug industry lobbyists. It was passed in 2003 in the middle of the night, with voting held open for hours as desperate GOP leaders tried to twist enough arms to deliver the votes to their corporate benefactors.

Fiscal conservatives from both parties objected to the high cost of the plan. To quiet these objections, the Bush administration ordered Medicare's actuary, Richard Foster, not to answer questions about its true cost. If he told Congress the truth, Foster was informed, he would be fired.

Foster was silenced by Thomas Scully, who was appointed by President George W. Bush to be chief administrator of Medicare.



### Revolving-door beneficiaries

Scully left his government post after the prescription drug law was passed and is now employed by law and investment firms that lobby for major health care companies.

Billy Tauzin, a former top-ranking Republican member of Congress, also switched jobs once the Medicare drug bill was pushed through Congress. As head of the Energy and Commerce Committee, he was a co-sponsor of the new drug law. Tauzin is now the top lobbyist for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, earning an estimated \$2 million per year.

The new Medicare prescription drug program was supposed to help senior citizens cope with the high cost of medicine. Instead, we've seen a sorry inside-the-beltway story of deception and self-dealing. The result is a confusing mess that doesn't always deliver the drugs senior citizens need -- and charges too high of a price in the bargain.

Congress can -- and should -- fix this awful piece of legislation. In place of 30 different programs, we need a single insurance plan, under Medicare, with the power to negotiate fair prices. Any legislator who supports the existing law should be asked why he or she is putting the special interests of the pharmaceutical lobby ahead of the needs of our senior citizens.

*Ron Gettelfinger is president of the United Auto Workers. Send letters to The Detroit News at 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226 or fax to (313) 222-6417 or e-mail to [letters@detnews.com](mailto:letters@detnews.com).*

*Friday, April 07, 2006*  
*Betty DeRamus*  
*Detroit News*

## Planning ahead for illness can lift caregivers' burdens

After my diabetic aunt suffered a stroke and had a leg amputated, I had to rustle up a nursing home in one week. Then I had to wrangle with a doctor who wrongly claimed my aunt no longer knew who she was.

Too bad I'd never attended the kind of conferences for caregivers scheduled for four Michigan cities in the next few weeks.

Yeah, I know. There's nothing sexy or stirring about providing daily care for aged, chronically ill or physically or mentally disabled relatives, friends, neighbors and church members.

Yet over 1 million Michigan men and women did it in 2004. That's why I'm so pumped up about the conferences scheduled for April 20-May 3 in Canton, Detroit, Redford and Woodhaven.

Topics are wide-ranging

Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan Elder Law Center, Adult Well-Being Services, Wayne-Metro Community Action Agency, the Information Center and other nonprofit agencies are coordinating these free events sponsored by AARP and American House Senior Living Residences. To register, call (734) 287-7831.

Organizers are calling these three-hour sessions "one-stop caregiving shops." Topics will touch on everything from legal and financial planning to recognizing and finding help for Alzheimer's victims to fighting stress and depression.

Experts also will talk about managing arthritis and other painful conditions, locating support groups, understanding the Medicare and Medicaid programs and finding respite, adult day care, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

They'll even discuss the usually hush-hush topic of elder abuse and the many forms it can take.

"Sometimes people don't realize that it can be verbal abuse ... (or) financial exploitation," explains Linda K. White, office manager for Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan Elder Law Center in Redford. "Giving someone the power of attorney is not a license to steal."

No, it isn't. But the daily stress of caring for the ill and elderly can be a prescription for collapse unless caregivers make advance plans, according to Kathleen M. Graham, current chair of the Elder Law and Advocacy section of the State Bar.

Plan ahead for illness

Graham pointed out that when someone becomes ill, his or her partner has to get deeply involved in the ailing spouse's health care. As a result, when a spouse is hospitalized "the partner's risk of death increases significantly and remains elevated for up to two years," she said.

The best way to make sure stress doesn't push you past your snapping point, the experts say, is to plan for a loved one's possible illness.

If I had prepared for my childless aunt's illness, I could have chosen a better nursing home, made sure my aunt had a will and joined a support group. Fortunately, many of you still have time for such decisions.

Prizes, refreshments, health screenings and even massages will be available at conferences. So will information that could soothe spirits and lift burdens.

*You can reach Betty DeRamus at (313) 222-2296 or [bderamus@detnews.com](mailto:bderamus@detnews.com).*

# Grant aids low-income medical service

*Friday, April 07, 2006*

**DEAN BOHN**

**THE SAGINAW NEWS**

David R. Gamez has some of his dental staff back and hopes for more.

A \$2.8 million grant from a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will help, said Gamez, chief executive officer of Health Delivery Inc. of Saginaw.

Health Delivery serves more than 20,000 low-income people in 14 counties.

The grant, a continuation of past funding, will provide primary health care services, Gamez said.

"We have a \$23 million total budget, and this is a piece that supports the care of the medically under-served, primarily in Bay City and Saginaw," he said.

It also funds the agency's migrant care.

"We've been receiving this money ever since we've been in existence -- about 28 years now. But the grants used to be about 90 percent of our budget. Now they're about 10," he said, noting the other 90 percent comes from a variety of sources -- Medicaid, state grants, some consumer payments for service, a pharmacy the agency runs and others.

"We're appreciative of the funding, but it's not a given that we receive it."

U.S. Rep. Dale E. Kildee, a Flint Democrat, said the services that community health centers provide are "irreplaceable" because they represent the only care many people receive.

Part of that care involves the dental staff.

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm in October 2003 drastically cut Medicaid coverage for dental care, which caused several dentists at the Wadsworth Dental Center in Saginaw and Bayside Dental Center in Bay City to leave the organization, Gamez said.

Six months ago, the state restored dental coverage for adult Medicaid patients, and now -- with thousands of Saginaw Valley residents eligible for care -- hundreds of patients have flooded the agency's two clinics in Saginaw and Bay City while they operated at half-staff, Gamez said.

"We've already hired two dentists, and we're looking for another," Gamez said. "They're hard to get." v

Dean Bohn is a staff writer for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9679.

*MIRS*  
*April 7, 2006*

## Hollister Was Frustrated At DLEG

Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** and David **HOLLISTER** left some revealing information out when they jointly announced that Hollister was leaving his cabinet post for a job outside state government.

It turns out Hollister had major frustrations dealing with the governor's staff and faced daily "conflicts" within his Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) bureaucracy, which were taking its toll on him.

The former DLEG director wanted nothing to do with this story, but based on information pieced together from several sources, it is clear other factors were at play in Hollister's decision to hang it up.

Hollister said at his farewell news conference he left because there was a great opportunity offered to him by Michigan State University (MSU) (See "[Hollister Stepping Down From DLEG](#)," 1/4/06). He also reported he did not want to go through another brutal re-election campaign. And finally, he felt his stress level would be reduced if he left, which would help in his battle with Parkinson's Disease.

But there was more going on. During his tenure Hollister ran into disagreements with underlings inside the governor's office, many of whom apparently felt they knew more about Hollister's job than he did. That's despite the fact that they had fewer years in the Capitol game than the former Mayor of Lansing.

The former legislator also had a run in with the new director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) in what can best be described as a turf disagreement. However, a source at the agency preferred to describe it as a "difference of perception."

When MSHDA head Mike **DeVOS** took the post, he discovered that Hollister had assumed some of the "operational" authority that DeVos wanted back. The two went back and forth on the issue and one source believed it came to a head when Hollister took the "perception" problem to the governor's office.

This source said that the governor's office was forced to choose between Hollister and DeVos and Hollister lost.

Hollister did deny this alleged ultimatum telling *MIRS*, "That is not the way it was."

But a department source indicated, "That was the last straw."

On top of those frustrations, Hollister was having problems with the House DLEG

Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Jack **BRANDENBURG** (R-Harrison Twp.)

One source suggested that Brandenburg was "rude, bombastic, malicious and about as partisan as you can get" in his dealings with Hollister.

It was an "ugly budget process," filled with political "polarization" to the point that Hollister complained about it in a private letter to House Speaker Craig **DeROCHE** (R-Nov).

Brandenburg, for his part, said he treated Hollister with "all due respect," but detected a "pompous" attitude from the DLEG director.

The Macomb County Republican felt the attitude was, "I don't have to answer these (budget) questions."

"Maybe he was too sensitive," Brandenburg reflected. "Maybe it was time for him to leave."

When the veteran Hollister added all this up, and when this MSU offer was made, he firmly concluded it was time to go. Consequently, when the governor asked him to stay, it was clear in his mind that he "was not going to be talked out of leaving."

Enough was enough.

*(Contributed by Senior Capital Correspondent Tim **SKUBICK**.)*

# Criminal past hinders woman's job opportunities

John Schneider

Lansing State Journal

4-7-06

We'll get straight to the point here: Sheri L. Pruitt is a convicted felon.

In 2003 she served 92 days in the Ingham County Jail for "uttering and publishing," the legal term for writing bad checks.

Asked why she turned to crime, Pruitt said, without hesitation, "Stupidity." Stupidity and alcoholism.

"Writing bad checks was easy to do; I was wrapped up in the bottle; I was stupid," she said.

That was then. This is now. Pruitt paid her debt to society. She made restitution. She's been sober, she said, since July 7, 2003.

Pruitt, a 34-year-old single mother of three (ages 8 to 13) is eager to get on with the new phase of her life - the one that began when she walked out of jail.

But there's that felony conviction, hobbling her as surely as leg irons.

## False start

Pruitt wrote me one week ago, shortly after she had been fired following a day and a half in a clerical job that she thought might be the key that unlocked the chains around her ankles.

On the morning of her first day with the local company, Pruitt sat down with the personnel director to fill out the necessary paperwork.

She checked the "felony" box on the application and it appeared, at first, that her honesty had been rewarded. She made it through all of Monday and half of Tuesday before the ax came down.

At lunch time a supervisor told Pruitt the corporation's lawyer declared her a liability to the company.

So, Pruitt returned to Pizza Hut, where she works part time as a waiter.

"I'm thankful for my job," she said, "but it's not my life's calling."

Especially not with three kids to rear. Pruitt combines her salary with public assistance and intermittent child support.

She gets by, but she's certain she's capable of much more - and proved it once.

## Successful gig

When she first got out of jail she worked as office manager for a local home-improvement company called The Basement Experts. Pruitt's duties gave her access to large sums of money.

The application for that job included no question about felony convictions. The bosses eventually learned of Pruitt's criminal record, but by then she had earned their trust, and was allowed to keep the job - until January, when the company closed its Lansing office.

One of Pruitt's former supervisors at The Basement Experts, Jamie Hunter, told me: "Sheri did a wonderful job for us."

Since then, Pruitt, who has a General Educational Development certificate, plus some Lansing Community College credits, has been on several job interviews.

"Once the felony comes up, it's like, 'Don't call us; we'll call you.'"

But they never do.

"They're not interested in my references," she said.

Pruitt empathizes with the potential employers who reject her. She can see why, given the choice between an applicant with a criminal history and one with a clean record, a person in charge of hiring would choose the latter.

"I understand," she said. "I'm not bitter."

And yet, the bars remain.

"I feel I have paid my debt to society," Pruitt said. "And, given a chance, I know I can do good work."

What do you think? Call John Schneider at 377-1175, send a fax to 377-1298 or e-mail [jschneid@lsj.com](mailto:jschneid@lsj.com).

# **Food offered to needy**

*Friday, April 07, 2006*  
*The Grand Rapids Press*

## **GRAND HAVEN –**

Five food pantries will distribute 7,500 pounds of fresh fruit, vegetables and other food April 18 at St. Patrick's Church, 901 Columbus St. Distribution starts at 10 a.m. Food is free for those in need. Visitors are asked to bring their own grocery bags. The food is provided by Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan and Love INC (In the Name of Christ). For information, call Love INC at (616) 846-2701.

# Course will provide key tools for parents of teens

*Megan Frounfelter,  
The Huron Daily Tribune  
04/05/2006*

**BAD AXE** — Parents dealing with defiant teenagers will have the opportunity to learn effective parenting techniques during an eight-week parenting group provided by Professional Counseling Services.

Wendy Vatter of Professional Counseling Services will conduct “The Concrete Rational Approach to Parenting” which will provide parents tools to survive raising defiant teenagers. A group for teenagers, “Teens in Control, Thinking About Consequences” will be offered at the same time as the parent’s group at the Huron Area Technical Center.

“Parents will gain an understanding of why teens behave the way they do and learn skills to manage teenage behaviors,” Vatter said.

Andrea Cleland of Professional Counseling Services will conduct the six-week course for teenagers.

Counselors at Professional Counseling Services will provide the teen group for adolescents who have been identified by a parent, therapist, court worker or other professionals as exhibiting behaviors consistent with defiant disorder, said Tammy L. McPherson of Professional Counseling Services.

Teens will discuss topics including, but not limited to, developing a world view of society, identifying individual strengths and possible consequences.

McPherson requested grant money from the state to hold these sessions, she said. Similar groups are held around Michigan, but not in the surrounding area.

“I saw a need for this (parenting groups) in our community,” McPherson said. “We hope this will help parents in the community gain control of their teenagers and hope that teens will gain more self-confidence in themselves.”

The parenting session will offer techniques based on the approach in “The Whipped Parent Syndrome” and session topics will include, but are not limited to, developing realistic expectations for adolescents, recognizing what parents can and can not control, working with community systems and regaining and maintaining emotional well-being.

The parent sessions will begin April 27 and conclude on June 15 at the Huron Area Technical Center. The sessions will begin at 6 p.m. and run until about 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

The teen group will also begin at 6 p.m. on April 27 at the Huron Area Technical Center.

Individuals must attend the first session in order to be admitted to following sessions, McPherson said.

Professional Counseling Services will provide two eight-week sessions each year. The second session will begin in the fall, McPherson said.

The sessions are open to any parents, teachers, probation officers, grandparents, court workers or foster parents in Huron County, McPherson said. Residents wishing to attend the free sessions or to make a referral may contact Professional Counseling Services at (989) 269-5180.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 6, 2006**

## **Governor Granholm Makes Appointments, Reappointments**

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today announced the following appointments and reappointments to the Child Support Leadership Council, the General Industry Safety Standards Commission, the Board of Nursing Home Administrators, the Cervical Cancer Task Force, the Michigan Veterans' Facilities Board of Managers, and the Board of Real Estate Appraisers:

### **Child Support Leadership Council**

Verlie M. Ruffin of Detroit, Michigan Children's Ombudsman. Ms. Ruffin is appointed as a member for a term expiring April 11, 2008. She succeeds Lynn Martinez whose term has expired.

Jeffrey L. Sauter of Grand Ledge, Eaton County prosecuting attorney. Mr. Sauter is reappointed to represent the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan for a term expiring April 11, 2008.

John J. Sullivan of Wayne, attorney and Wayne County commissioner. Mr. Sullivan is reappointed as a member for a term expiring April 11, 2008.

The Child Support Leadership Council advises the Governor and the Supreme Court on development and implementation of strategic goals for improving services to Michigan families.

These appointments are not subject to disapproval.

### **General Industry Safety Standards Commission**

Dwayne F. Betcher of Allegan, library assistant at the Herrick District Library. Mr. Betcher is appointed to represent public employees for a term expiring March 26, 2007. He succeeds Michael D. Koehs whose term has expired.

William L. Borch Jr. of Bay City, up-state business agent with the Ironworkers Local Union No. 25. Mr. Borch is appointed to represent labor for a term expiring March 26, 2008. He succeeds James J. Baker whose term has expired.

Karl E. Heim of Washington, international representative with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO. Mr. Heim is appointed to represent labor for a term expiring March 26, 2008. He succeeds Tycho K. Fredericks whose term has expired.

The General Industry Safety Standards Commission is responsible for promulgating standards in accordance with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act to prevent accidents in places of employment and to protect the lives and safety of employees.

These appointments are subject to Article V, Section 6 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963. They stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

### **Board of Nursing Home Administrators**

Karen J. Messick of Comstock Park, chief operating officer and administrator of Pilgrim Manor, Inc. nursing home. Ms. Messick is appointed to represent nursing home administrators for a term expiring December 31, 2006. She succeeds DeLora K. Denman who has resigned.

The Board of Nursing Home Administrators provides for the licensure of nursing home administrators and provides penalties for violations of Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978.

This appointment is subject to Article V, Section 6 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963. It stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

#### **Cervical Cancer Task Force**

Thomas P. Petroff, D.O. of Okemos, physician with DeWitt Women's Health. Dr. Petroff is appointed to represent health maintenance organizations for a term expiring at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Cervical Cancer Task Force, established by Executive Order 2006-5, is charged with reviewing existing state efforts regarding cervical cancer awareness; identifying and making recommendations to promote effective communications efforts at state and local levels to increase awareness of the importance of regular cervical cancer screenings; and making recommendations for the development of a comprehensive statewide plan to generate public awareness of the importance of regular cervical cancer screenings. A final report with recommendations is to be presented to the Governor by September 30, 2006.

This appointment is not subject to disapproval.

#### **Michigan Veterans' Facilities Board of Managers**

Timothy D. Bade of New Baltimore, firefighter and paramedic with the Sterling Heights Fire Department and honorably discharged U.S. Navy hospital corpsman. Mr. Bade is appointed to represent veterans for a term expiring February 28, 2011. He succeeds Ruth A. Newman whose term has expired.

Ernest E. Meyers, Sr. of Charlotte, retired General Motors worker and honorably discharged U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran. Mr. Meyers is appointed to represent veterans of foreign wars of the United States for a term expiring February 28, 2011. He succeeds Dale J. Brubaker whose term has expired.

The Michigan Veterans' Facilities Board of Managers, created by Public Act 152 of 1895, exercises regulatory and governance authority regarding admission to and members affairs at Michigan's two veterans' homes. They also represent the interest of the veterans' community in both advisory and advocacy roles.

These appointments are subject to Article V, Section 6 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963. They stand confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

#### **Board of Real Estate Appraisers**

Craig W. Hufnagel of Shelby Township, senior appraiser of Cook, Pray, Rexroth & Associates. Mr. Hufnagel is appointed to represent state licensed real estate appraisers for a term expiring June 30, 2008. He succeeds John A. Lyman whose term has expired.

The Board of Real Estate Appraisers provides for the licensure of state licensed and state certified real estate appraisers and real estate valuation specialists.

This appointment is subject to Article V, Section 6 of the Michigan State Constitution of 1963. It stands confirmed unless disapproved by the Senate within 60 days.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 6, 2006**

## **State Energy Plan to Outline Path to Affordable, Reliable Electricity**

### ***Governor Directs PSC Chair to Begin Work Immediately***

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today issued an executive directive calling for the development of a comprehensive energy plan for the state of Michigan. The plan will outline ways to provide affordable, reliable, safe, and clean electricity for citizens and businesses. Granholm charged Peter Lark, chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission, with beginning the development of the plan immediately and presenting it to her by year's end.

"Michigan citizens and businesses need to know that there will be a reliable, affordable source of electricity when they reach for the light switch," Granholm said. "We know that we need to plan now to meet our electric needs in the future. This is an opportunity to be sure that we're meeting those needs in the most affordable, environmentally-friendly, reliable way possible. A comprehensive energy plan will strengthen our competitive business climate, grow jobs, and provide affordable rates for all customers for the long term."

Earlier this year, the Michigan Public Service Commission indicated the state will be facing a need for new generation capacity by 2009. The directive issued today will ensure that the state has the tools necessary to meet future demand in a way that is reliable, clean, and cost-effective.

Executive Directive 2006-2 asks for recommendations to ensure the state can both reliably meet its growing energy needs and keep electric rates competitive. The plan, when complete, will encourage the use of new technologies to improve energy efficiency, cleanliness, and distribution and will explore ways to continue the growth of the alternative energy industry here in Michigan.

"Michigan has the capability to become America's alternative energy development epicenter, and that offers a tremendous opportunity to diversify our economy and provide high-tech, high-wage, 21st century jobs to our residents," Granholm said. "It is our duty to find a way to increase Michigan's energy independence, and in the process, develop affordable, efficient, safe, and environmentally friendly electric sources powered by Michigan's businesses, Michigan innovation, and Michigan workers."

The plan will encourage the state to seek alternative and renewable sources of energy as alternatives to traditional electricity generation. As part of the directive, the Governor has also asked Chairman Lark to establish a renewable energy portfolio for the state.

The portfolio will encourage the production and use of alternative energy sources in Michigan by requiring that a certain percentage of the state's energy supply come from renewable sources.

The plan will be developed by the chair of the Michigan Public Service Commission, working in cooperation with representatives from the public and private sectors, including the directors of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and other appropriate state departments.

The directive calls for specific recommendations on:

- meeting the state's short and long-term electric needs for residential, industrial, commercial and governmental customers in way that that ensures a reliable, safe, clean and affordable supply;
- developing Michigan's electronic infrastructure to further the state's competitive business climate, grow jobs, and provide affordable rates for all customers;
- reducing reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency, alternative energy, and renewable energy technologies consistent with the goal of assuring reliable, safe, clean and affordable energy;
- protecting natural resources and the environment from pollution, physical or visual impairment, or destruction and future risks associated with fossil fuels;
- developing a renewable portfolio standard which will establish targets for the share of the state's energy consumption that should come from renewable energy sources;
- identifying new technology options to generate, transmit, or distribute energy more cleanly or more efficiently;
- fostering continued growth of alternative and renewable energy technologies within the state by ensuring development of the intellectual capital, financing, infrastructure, and other resources necessary for the growth of the industry; and,
- identifying any legislative or regulatory changes necessary to its implementation, together with any financial, funding, or incentive mechanisms needed to best position the state to meet the energy challenges of the future.

The report is due to the Governor by December 31, 2